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C.I.G. 4

19 March 1946

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

SURVEY OF COVERAGE OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS  
IN THE UNITED STATES

Memorandum by the Director of Central Intelligence

1. By memorandum of 20 February to the Director of Central Intelligence (Enclosure "B"), Mr. McCormack suggested that the Director take under advisement the matter of determining what coverage of the Foreign Language Press in the United States is desirable for intelligence purposes, and how the coverage should be obtained.

2. The Central Intelligence Group should conduct a survey of the matter and prepare a report, with recommendations, for the approval of the National Intelligence Authority.

3. Paragraph 3 of N.I.A. Directive No. 1 provides a procedure by which the necessary directive can be published and carried out by unanimous approval of the Director of Central Intelligence and the Intelligence Advisory Board, without action by the National Intelligence Authority.

4. Enclosed is a draft directive (Enclosure "A"), making necessary provisions for the survey. If all members of the Advisory Board concur in the draft without substantial change, a meeting will not be necessary. It is recommended that the directive in Enclosure "A" be approved, and that each member of the Intelligence Advisory Board arrange for necessary implementation by his department.

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ENCLOSURE "A"

D R A F T

C.I.G. DIRECTIVE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SURVEY OF COVERAGE OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS  
IN THE UNITED STATES

Memorandum by the Director of Central Intelligence, with the  
Unanimous Concurrence of the Intelligence Advisory Board

1. By memorandum of 20 February 1946, Mr. McCormack (Special Assistant to the Secretary of State in charge of Research and Intelligence) suggested that the Director of Central Intelligence take under advisement the matter of determining what coverage of the Foreign Language Press in the United States is desirable for intelligence purposes and how the coverage should be obtained. This matter falls logically under the provisions of Paragraph 4-b, N.I.A. Directive No. 2. The following paragraphs outline the provisions which will govern this survey.

2. The survey will include an examination of all facilities for covering the Foreign Language Press in the United States in order to determine:

- a. The extent of coverage by existing facilities;
- b. The adequacy of the existing coverage;
- c. The extent of duplication of effort in the current coverage;
- d. The availability of trained, competent personnel;
- e. The suitability of the present material produced by existing facilities;
- f. The suitability of present dissemination of material processed by existing facilities.

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Enclosure "A"

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3. The survey will include, finally, an examination of the question as to whether the desired end will be served better if the effort be distributed, or if it be centralized; and if centralized, what agency of the Government should be charged with it.

4. The Central Planning Staff, C.I.G., will conduct the survey. It will be authorized to call for personnel indicated in paragraph 5, below, to appear and give such oral or written reports as may be required for purposes of this survey.

5. Each member of the Intelligence Advisory Board will designate a representative to arrange details with the Information Branch, Central Planning Staff, and to furnish the C.I.G. a list of personnel authorized to give information for purposes of the survey. The designation of appropriate contact personnel in other Federal agencies will be arranged for as necessary.

6. The Central Planning Staff will submit its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Director of Central Intelligence. He will then submit appropriate recommendations to the National Intelligence Authority, after concurrence or comment by the Intelligence Advisory Board.

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Enclosure "A"

ENCLOSURE "B"

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

February 20, 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL SOUERS

SUBJECT: Intelligence from Foreign Language Press in the United States.

1. There are more than 1,000 foreign language newspapers and magazines in the United States. They serve a large minority of the population, since according to the 1940 census there were then 11,500,000 persons of foreign birth and some 23,000,000 of foreign parentage in this country, and 22,000,000 persons reported some language other than English as their mother tongue.

2. The foreign language papers in this country are an important source of both foreign and domestic intelligence. They receive information from correspondents abroad and by mail from individuals abroad, and from foreign personalities who come to this country. They frequently carry information not available in the English language press. They are particularly a source of information about personalities and political movements in foreign countries in advance of the time when such policies and movements attract enough attention to get into the English language press or into other usual sources of information.

3. The foreign language papers reflect political attitudes and controversies in foreign countries, especially the attitudes of opposition groups, who sometimes have their principal base and their principal medium of expression in the United States.

4. Attitudes of foreign language groups in the United States have to be taken into account in the conduct of foreign relations, in that powerful minorities in the United States can influence public opinion and thereby limit the freedom of the government in dealing with foreign problems. Foreign issues are sometimes matters of violent agitation in this country, as witness the steady stream of pro-Soviet and anti-Soviet propaganda that is carried on by Polish, Lithuanian, Slovakian, Rumanian, Hungarian, Croatian and Serb newspapers in this country.

5. In the conduct of our information program for foreign countries, it is important to know the issues that are being debated in the corresponding foreign language press in this country.

6. Just prior to and during the war various government agencies concerned themselves with the foreign language press. The Department of Justice had a unit which read the publications from primarily the security standpoint. The counter-intelligence units of the Armed Forces did something along the same line. But the only attempt at comprehensive coverage (not, however, including Asiatic language papers) was the work of the Foreign Nationalities Branch of OSS, which began in 1941. In addition to reading and reporting upon the European foreign language papers of European and Near East nationality groups

in this country, it also maintained contact with foreign individuals in the United States and with the leaders of foreign nationality groups and movements here.

7. The annual budget of the Foreign Nationalities Branch, which was located in New York City, ran from \$250,000 to \$300,000, of which \$1,000 per month was paid to the Overseas News Agency for a reading and translating service. By the fall of 1945, when the Foreign Nationalities Branch passed into the Interim Research and Intelligence Service in the State Department, most of the actual reading of the foreign language papers was done by Overseas News Agency, and the staff of the Branch spent its time writing reports based upon those readings and keeping in touch with foreign language personalities.

8. Shortly after the Interim Research and Intelligence Service was set up, the Foreign Nationalities Branch had to be liquidated for lack of funds.

9. A number of people in various Departments of the Government, as well as some private individuals, have either written or come to see me, urging that coverage of the foreign language press be resumed. The Coordinating Committee of the Department of State has been studying the problem recently, from the angle of the Office of International and Cultural Affairs, which conducts the short-wave broadcasting to foreign countries. The Army and Navy have an interest in this matter from the standpoint of domestic intelligence, and they and the State Department are interested in it as a source of foreign intelligence.

10. It is believed that the matter deserves the attention of the National Intelligence Authority, and it is therefore suggested that the Director of Central Intelligence take the matter under advisement with a view to recommending:

a. What coverage of the foreign language press in the United States it is desirable to maintain for intelligence purposes?

b. By what means can such coverage best be obtained?  
and

c. What agency or agencies can best do the job, and, if more than one agency can participate, how should the work be divided between them?

/s/  
Alfred McCormack  
Special Assistant  
to the Secretary.

cc: General Vandenberg  
Admiral Inglis  
General McDonald